

Appln. No. 09/864,107

Amdt. dated July 6, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated May 17, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 13 and 20-24 and amend claims 1, 9-12, and 14-18 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for providing and processing a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image and producing graphics related data on said medical image, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

providing a menu-less graphical interface for displaying, essentially unobstructed, said medical image in a substantial portion of said graphical interface;

controlling a mouse computer interface device having at least one button;

displaying a pointer symbol on said graphical interface, wherein said pointer symbol represents a current position of said mouse on said graphical interface;

tracking a status of each of said at least one button;

detecting a position of said mouse, wherein said position detection step is activated upon actuation of one of said at least one button;

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generating one of a plurality of different measurement graphics related to a predefined set of measurement operations on said medical image upon at least one actuation of said at least one button; [[and]]

enabling the generation of the plurality of different measurement graphics based only upon actuation of said at least one button of said mouse when said pointer symbol is situated on said medical image without actuation of said at least one button of said mouse when said pointer symbol is situated on menus, toolbars and control panels such that the measurement graphics are generated without movement of said pointer symbol outside of said medical image, and

enabling the generation of the measurement graphics without requiring a user to define a type of graphic being generated,

wherein one of the measurement graphics is an angle value quantity which is assigned to a middle point of a triple-point actuating/positioning.

Claim 2 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a single-point actuating/positioning assigns an actual pixel position and/or a pixel intensity quantity to the point in question.

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Claim 3 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a point pair actuating/positioning assigns a distance value to the pair in question.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein multiple-point actuating/positioning for an open or closed point sequence assigns an area value quantity to a concave region delimited by the sequence in question.

Claim 6 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a freehand-drawn actuating/positioning for an open or closed curve assigns an area value quantity to a concave region delimited by said curve.

Claim 7 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein multiple-point actuating/positioning for an open or closed sequence assigns a poly-line measurement quantity to the sequence so drawn.

Claim 8 (Original). A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a freehand-drawn actuating/positioning for an open or closed

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sequence assigns a measurement quantity to the freehand sequence so drawn.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A method as claimed in any of ~~Claims 2 to~~ Claim 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 or 8, ~~[[and]]~~ further comprising assigning a pixel staticizing to an assigned geometrical entity.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). An apparatus arranged to provide and process a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image, wherein said apparatus comprises:

a menu-less graphical interface for displaying, essentially unobstructed, said medical image in a substantial portion of said graphical interface;

a pointing device having at least one button, wherein said pointing device is represented on said graphical interface by a standardized pointer symbol and wherein said pointer symbol represents a current position of said pointing device within the context of said graphical interface;

a processor configured to detect an actuation of each of said at least one button of said pointing device and track positions of said pointing device; ~~[[and]]~~

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a processor-internal list of measurement operations, said measurement operations being performed upon at least one actuation of the at least one button and producing corresponding, different measurement graphics on said medical image,

said processor being arranged to produce the plurality of different measurement graphics based on said list of measurement operations based only upon actuation of said at least one button of said pointing device when said pointer symbol is situated on said medical image without actuation of said at least one button of said pointing device when said pointer symbol is situated on menus, toolbars and control panels such that the measurement graphics are produced without movement of said pointer symbol outside of said medical image; and

assigning means for assigning an angle value quantity to a middle point of a triple-point actuating/positioning.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, ~~further comprising wherein said~~ assigning means for ~~upon a single-point actuating/positioning assigning~~ assigns an actual pixel position and/or a pixel intensity quantity to ~~the a~~ a point ~~in question~~ upon a single-point actuating/positioning.

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Claim 12 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, ~~further comprising wherein said assigning means for~~
~~upon a point pair actuating/positioning assigning assigns a~~
distance value to the a point pair in question upon a point pair
actuating/positioning.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, ~~further comprising wherein said assigning means for~~
~~upon a multiple-point actuating/positioning for an open or closed~~
~~point sequence assigning assigns an area value quantity to a~~
concave region delimited by the an open or closed point sequence
in question upon a multiple-point actuating/positioning for the
open or closed point sequence.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, ~~further comprising wherein said assigning means for~~
~~upon a freehand-drawn actuating/positioning for an open or closed~~
~~curve assigning assigns an area value quantity to a concave~~
region delimited by ~~said~~ an open or closed curve upon a freehand-
drawn actuating/positioning for the open or closed curve.

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Claim 16 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, ~~further comprising wherein said assigning means for upon a multiple-point actuating/positioning for an open or closed sequence assigning~~ assigns a poly-line measurement quantity to the an open or closed sequence ~~so drawn~~ upon a multiple-point actuating/positioning of the open or closed sequence.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, ~~further comprising wherein said assigning means for upon a freehand-drawn actuating/positioning for an open or closed sequence assigning~~ assigns a measurement quantity to the a freehand open or closed sequence ~~so drawn~~ upon a freehand-drawn actuating/positioning of the open or closed sequence.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as claimed in any of ~~Claims 11 to~~ Claim 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 or 17, further comprising staticizing means for assigning a pixel staticizing to an assigned geometrical entity.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). A machine readable computer program, said program implementing a menu-less graphical interface and arranged for processing cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image for producing graphics related data on such image, for implementing a method as claimed

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in Claim 1, said program being arranged for sensing mouse positionings and/or actuations and for effecting inherent measuring functionalities based on relative such positionings with respect to an associated imaged medical object, and for subsequently outputting representations of said measuring functionalities for displaying in association with said medical object.

Claims 20-24 (Cancelled).